

## Readings for April 4, 2010

### FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:34–43

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### PSALM: Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his mercy endures forever.

**<sup>2</sup>Let Israel now proclaim,  
"His mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.

**<sup>15</sup>There is a sound of exultation and victory  
in the tents of the righteous:**

<sup>16</sup>"The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!  
The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"

**<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD has punished me sorely,  
but he did not hand me over to death.

**<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
he who is righteous may enter."

**<sup>21</sup>I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The same stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**<sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing,**

**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>On this day the LORD has acted;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

## **SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:19–26**

<sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 24:1–12**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## **Readings for April 11, 2010**

### **FIRST LESSON: Acts 5:27–32**

<sup>27</sup>When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

<sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

### **PSALM: Psalm 118:14–29**

The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.

**<sup>15</sup>There is a sound of exultation and victory  
in the tents of the righteous:**

<sup>16</sup>"The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!  
The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"

**<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD has punished me sorely,  
but he did not hand me over to death.

**<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
he who is righteous may enter."

**<sup>21</sup>I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The same stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**<sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>On this day the LORD has acted;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**<sup>25</sup>Hosanna, LORD, hosanna!  
LORD, send us now success.**

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

**<sup>27</sup>God is the LORD; he has shined upon us;  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup>"You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you."

**<sup>29</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his mercy endures forever.**

### **SECOND LESSON: Revelation 1:4–8**

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of

the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### **GOSPEL: John 20:19–31**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **Readings for April 18, 2010**

### **FIRST LESSON: Acts 9:1–6 [7–20]**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he

might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

### **PSALM: Psalm 30**

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried out to you,  
and you restored me to health.**

<sup>3</sup>You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

**<sup>4</sup>Sing to the LORD, you servants of his;  
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.**

<sup>5</sup>For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,  
his favor for a lifetime.

**<sup>6</sup>Weeping may spend the night,  
but joy comes in the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.

You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

**<sup>8</sup>Then you hid your face,  
and I was filled with fear.**

<sup>9</sup>I cried to you, O LORD;

I pleaded with the LORD, saying,

**<sup>10</sup>"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"**

<sup>11</sup>Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;

O LORD, be my helper."

**<sup>12</sup>You have turned my wailing into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

## **SECOND LESSON: Revelation 5:11–14**

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might  
forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

## **GOSPEL: John 21:1–19**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from

the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

## Readings for April 25, 2010

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## PSALM: Psalm 57

<sup>1</sup>Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful, for I have taken refuge in you;  
in the shadow of your wings will I take refuge until this time of trouble has  
gone by.

<sup>2</sup>**I will call upon the Most High God,  
the God who is with me to the end.**

<sup>3</sup>O God, you will send from heaven and save me, rebuking those who trample  
upon me,  
you will send forth your love and your faithfulness.

<sup>4</sup>**I lie in the midst of lions that devour the people;  
their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongue a sharp sword.**

<sup>5</sup>Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God,  
and your glory over all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>**They have laid a net for my feet, and I am bowed low;  
they have dug a pit before me, but have fallen into it themselves.**

<sup>7</sup>My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and make melody.

<sup>8</sup>**Wake up, my spirit; awake, lute and harp;  
I myself will waken the dawn.**

<sup>9</sup>I will give thanks to you among the peoples, O LORD;  
I will sing praise to you among the nations.

<sup>10</sup>**For your steadfast love is greater than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

<sup>11</sup>Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God,  
and your glory over all the earth.

## SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6–11, 18

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my  
departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I  
have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of  
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and  
not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>9</sup>Do your best to come to me soon, <sup>10</sup>for Demas, in love with this present  
world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to  
Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with  
you, for he is useful in my ministry. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil  
attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and  
ever. Amen.

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–15

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."